

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 MAPUTO 00841 052016Z  
ACTION NODS-00

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FM AAEMBASSY MAPUTO  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7153

C O N F I D E N T I A L MAPUTO 0841

NODIS

FROM LOW

E.O.11652: GDS  
TAGS: PDEV, RH  
SUBJECT: GABELLAH SAYS SITHOLE WILL ATTEND ALL PARTY TALKS  
RHODESIA:

1. DURING THE COURSE OF A LONG AND FRANK DINNER CONVERSATION WITH GRAHAM AND ME MONDAY NIGHT, SITHOLE'S DEPUTY ELLIOTT GABELLAH, MADE A NUMBER OF POINTS. THE MOST IMPORTANT OF THESE WAS TO SAY THAT HE HAD DISCUSSED THE PROPOSAL FOR AN UNANNOUNCED MEETING OF PRINCIPALS WITH SITHOLE ON TWO OCCASIONS FOLLOWING OUR MEETING WITH HIM ON THE SAME SUBJECT. HE SAID THAT SITHOLE WOULD BE WILLING TO ATTEND SUCH A MEETING PROVIDED THAT IT PRIVATE AND CONFIDENTIAL CHARACTER CAN BE MAINTAINED AS FOR MUZOREWA, HE WOULD UNDOUBTEDLY COME ALONG ONCE THE OHTERS HAD DETERMINED TO ATTEND.

2. GABELLAH HAS OBVIOUSLY NOT ABANDONED THE MARCH 3 AGREEMENT. HE IS THINKING OF ALTERNATIVES IN THE EVENT THE CONFERENCE DOES NOT TAKE PLACE OR IT FAILS. GABELLAH RECOGNIZES THE PROBLEMS WHICH A DECEMBER ELECTION IN RHODESIA WOULD CREATE. TO PREVENT INTIMIDATION IT WOULD BE NCESSARY TO APPLY CONSIDERABLE  
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FORCE, WHICH ITSELF WOULD BE CONDEMNED AS INTIMIDATION. THUS HE FEELS ELECTIONS WOULD PUT THE MARCH 3 GROUP IN A NO WIN POSITION AND HE STRONGLY BELIEVES THAT THEY SHOULD BE ABABDONED. A COALITION GOVERNMENT COULD BE FORMED UPON WHICH SMITH WOULD PRESIDE.

3. GABELLAH ASKED WHAT OUR REACTION WOULD BE IN THE

EVENT A WHITE REFERENDUM OCCURED: THE RESULT WAS NO AND MARTIAL LAW WAS IMPOSED. WE SAID WE THOUGH IT WAS UNLIKELY THAT A WHITE REFERENDUM WOULD REJECT SMITH'S LEADERSHIP. HOWEVER, IN ANY EVENT THE IMPOSITION OF MARTIAL LAW COULD NOT HELP OBTAINING INTERNATIONAL SUPPORT.

4. GABELLAH WORRIED ABOUT GUERRILLAS IN FROZEN AREAS. HE SAID HE HAD SEEN A PICTURE OF SITHOLE CONGRATULATING A "GUARD OF HONOR" OF FORMER ZANLA TROOPS IN ONE OF THESE AREAS AND HE WAS APPALLED. THEY WILL BECOME A "THIRD FORCE" HE SAID, UNCONTROLLED BY ANYONE AND RESORTING TO VIOLENCE AT WILL.  
DE PREE

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01 jan 1994  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** DIPLOMATIC REPRESENTATIONS, SECRET MEETINGS, CAT-B  
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**Draft Date:** 05 jul 1978  
**Decaption Date:** 01 jan 1960  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 20 Mar 2014  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
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**Document Number:** 1978MAPUTO00841  
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**Subject:** GABELLAH SAYS SITHOLE WILL ATTEND ALL PARTY TALKS RHODESIA  
**TAGS:** PINT, RH, ZI, US, (GRAHAM, JOHN), (LOW, STEPHEN), (SITHOLE, NDABANINGI), (GABELLAH, ELLIOTT)  
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